Salkie

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II

DATE: AUG 3 1992

SUBJECT: Verification of Verbal Authorization to Conduct Removal Activities at the Hexagon Laboratories Site, Bronx, New York

FROM: Robert Montgomery, On-Scene Coordinator
Technical Support Section

TO: Kathleen C. Callahan, Director
Emergency and Remedial Response Division

THRU: Richard C. Salkie, Associate Director for
Removal and Emergency Preparedness Programs

The purpose of this memorandum is to confirm the Director's July 29, 1992 verbal approval of the proposed removal activities, as described herein at the Hexagon Laboratories Site, Bronx, New York.

On June 22, 1992, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), Bureau of Enforcement Conservation Investigations requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) conduct a removal action to dispose of the hazardous materials at the site including approximately 50 containers of potentially shock sensitive materials. NYSDEC indicated that neither state or local organizations could provide further timely response activities. The materials were discovered during a State preliminary assessment of the site and referred to EPA.

On July 29, 1992, after receiving information from the NYCDEP and contacting the guard to obtain access, the On-Scene Coordinator visited the site to confirm the reported incident. The site is located in a commercial industrial area immediately adjacent to a stressed residential neighborhood. The site inspection revealed a total of containers higher in number than was originally reported. The majority of the containers appear to be reasonably intact, however, many are stacked several high and containers are strewn about the facility, including spilled mercury. A leaking water line is flooding one area of the facility were high organic vapor readings were detected. Debris and other physical hazards along with poor lighting make the site unsafe to vandals and other trespassers who often enter the building. To verify that the material is hazardous, EPA collected samples of the material for laboratory analysis. The onsite hazcatting and inventorying indicates the presence of hazardous substances including shock sensitive materials.

In response to the verbal authorization given on July 29, 1992, an Emergency Response Cleanup Contractor was activated to provide enhanced security and, under the supervision of EPA and NYCDEP, the cleanup contractor will segregate the material to obtain information on any responsible party and ensure stabilization

until information is obtained and investigated for criminal liability and cost recovery.

The anticipated total project ceiling for this action is not expected to exceed $250,000, of which $150,000 is for mitigation contracting. An Action Memorandum is being prepared to document this action and describe and request funds for mitigating the threat from the site. Enforcement actions have been initiated.

If you have any questions or comments on the proposed removal activities, please contact me or John Witkowski, respectively.

cc: R. Salkie, ERRD-ADREPP ✓
G. Pavlou, ERRD-DDO&PM
G. Zachos, ERRD-RAB
J. Witkowski, ERRD-RAB-TSS
W. McCabe, ERRD-DDNYCP
J. Marshall, EPD
E. Schaaf, ORC-NYSUP
R. Gherardi, OPM-FIN
S. Luftig, OS-210
T. Grier, OS-210
M. O'Toole, NYSDEC

ATTACHMENT A

ANALYTICAL DATA AND STATE REQUEST

G. Zachos — NM TSR 7/1/92 (N.M.)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
50 Wolf Road, Albany, New York 12233

Thomas C. Jorling
Commissioner

JUN 22 1992

Ms. Kathleen C. Callahan
Director
Emergency & Remedial Response Division
USEPA
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, NY 10278

Dear Ms. Callahan:

RE: Site Code #2-03-003
Hexagon Laboratories
3536 Peartree Avenue
Bronx County, New York

The recently completed Preliminary Site Assessment of the referenced site has revealed several potentially dangerous conditions as the result of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes abandoned at Hexagon Labs.

The enclosed June 8, 1992 memo summarizes the conditions listed in the PSA report and the results of previous inspections conducted by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection.

This site was visited by staff from your Edison, New Jersey, Removal Programs Branch on Friday, June 12, 1992.

In addition to the hazardous wastes listed on the enclosed Table 4.5, taken from the PSA Report as prepared by Engineering-Science, Inc., there are approximately 300 different laboratory chemicals throughout the facility.

The NYSDEC hereby requests that the USEPA take appropriate immediate action under the emergency response program to abate the public health and environmental threats posed by the existing conditions at Hexagon Labs.

As further support and clarification of the reason for this request, we realize that under Section 4 of CERCLA, as amended by SARA, that the President of the United States may respond to any release or threat of a release of a hazardous substance, if in the President's discretion it constitutes a public health or environmental emergency and no other person with the capability and authority to respond to the emergency will do so in a timely manner.

We have enclosed a location plan, site plan and some liquid and soil sample analytical data for your reference. The draft PSA report is available if you require additional information.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Alan Rockmore, P.E., of my staff at (518) 457-9280.

Sincerely,

Michael J. O' Toole, Jr.
Director
Div. of Hazardous Waste Remediation

Enclosure

cc: R. Salkie - USEPA, Region II
G. Zachos - USEPA, Region II
G. Carlson - NYSDOH

15 (12-75)

New York State Department of Environmental Conservation

MEMORANDUM

0 1992

TO: Al Rockmore, Director, Bureau of Construction Services
FROM: Earl Barcomb, Director, Bureau of Hazardous Site Control
SUBJECT: Hexagon Labs, Bronx County, Site No. 203003

DATE: June 8, 1992

The Hexagon Laboratories, Inc. site, located at 3536 Peartree Avenue in Bronx County, is recommended for an immediate removal action. This site is currently the subject of a BHSC Preliminary Site Assessment Investigation. Task one of this investigation has revealed potentially dangerous site conditions.

Specifically:

- Approximately 100 drums are stored in a warehouse on site. During the December 1991 site walkover, the drums appeared to be physically intact. Now, however, most of the labels are absent or unreadable. The drums are stacked two high and are reported to contain former raw materials and products including acrylamide (U007), copper cyanide (P029), cumene (U055), ethyl acetate (U0112), paraldehyde (U182), sodium cyanide (P106), and tetrahydrofuran ((U213).

- Characteristic hazardous wastes may still be on site in appreciable quantities. These include ignitable organic solvents, corrosive inorganic acids, and reactives such as vinylidene chloride, lithium and sodium metal, and compressed gases. These items may be located in areas other than the warehouse:

  - A laboratory area on the second floor contains numerous shelves and cabinets filled with lab reagent sized (1 gal. or less) containers of a vast variety of substances. The chemicals did not appear to be organized in any rational fashion during the 1991 walkover. The area includes a cardboard box of lecture bottles, and several extremely rusted containers of the style ethers are stored in.

  - A 1987 sampling of an abandoned on-site well revealed a 15-foot-thick hydrocarbon layer containing ethylene dichloride (350 ppm), toluene (6300 ppm), xylene (14,000 ppm), and PCB aroclor 1242 (47 ppm).

Much of the property remaining on this site appears to be in deteriorating physical condition. The site has only one remaining employee responsible for security and simple maintenance. There are approximately 381,000 people within a three mile radius that would be at risk should incompatible or reactive substances on site be mixed due to drum failure, fire, or explosion.

The contact person for this site in the Bureau of Hazardous Site Control is Cynthia Whitfield.

cc: D. Chaffin

TABLE 4.5

WASTES GENERATED ON-SITE
HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE
BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

CAS #	CHEMICAL	PHYSICAL STATE	CODE	CHARACTERISTIC	REFERENCE
67-64-1	acetone	Liquid	F003	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
67485-29-4	amdro waste	--	D002	Corrosive	HEXAGON, 1985
64706-54-3	bepridil (UN 1993)	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
71-55-6	chlorothene (UN 1037)	Liquid	D002	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	dibromo butanol	--	F002	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	diisobutylene	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	diisopropyl pheniramine nitril	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	diparaxylene	Liquid/Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	diparaxylene oxide	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	diphenol oxide	Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
75-35-4	ethylene dichloride	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	floor strippings	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	lead contaminated sewer sludge	Solid	D008	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
67-56-1	methanol	Liquid	F003	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
not listed	nitrile (Step II)	Liquid	--	Ignitable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	paramethoxy aceto nitrile	--	D000	--	HEXAGON, 1984
not listed	paramethoxy phenyl acetic acid	Liquid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	paramethoxyl phenyl acetonitrile	--	D001	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	spent activated carbon	Solid	D001	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
not listed	still bottom waste	--	F001-F005	--	NYSDEC, 1987a
108-88-3	toluene	Liquid	U220	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	toluene ethylene dichloride	Solid	D001	Flammable	HEXAGON, 1986
not listed	trimethyl phenyl ammonium chloride	--	--	--	HEXAGON, 1985
not listed	UN 1760	--	D002	Corrosive	HEXAGON, 1986

TABLE 4.6

SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS FOR SAMPLE FROM LIQUID SEEPING FROM HEXAGON (NYTL, 1981) HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

PARAMETER \1	UNITS	CONCENTRATION
Acrolein	ppb	10 U
Acrylonitrile	ppb	10 U
Benzene	ppb	755
Bis (chloro-methyl) ether	ppb	10 U
Bromoform	ppb	10 U
Carbon tetrachloride	ppb	10 U
Chlorobenzene	ppb	653
Chlorodibromomethane	ppb	10 U
Chloroethane	ppb	10 U
2-Chloroethylvinyl ether	ppb	10 U
Chloroform	ppb	10 U
1,1-Dichloroethane	ppb	10 U
1,2-Dichloroethane	ppb	10 U
1,1-Dichloroethylene	ppb	10 U
1,2-Dichloropropane	ppb	10 U
1,2-Dichloropropylene	ppb	10 U
Ethylbenzene	ppb	171
Methyl bromide	ppb	10 U
Methyl chloride	ppb	10 U
Methylene chloride	ppb	613
1,1,2,2-Tetrachloroethane	ppb	10 U
Tetrachloroethylene	ppb	10 U
Toluene	ppb	10 U
1,2-trans-Dichloroethylene	ppb	10 U
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	ppb	10 U
1,1,2-Trichloroethane	ppb	10 U
Trichloroethylene	ppb	429
Trichlorofluoromethane	ppb	10 U
Vinyl chloride	ppb	10 U

\1 = Analysis for NYSDEC by New York Testing Laboratories, Inc., Westbury, New York, April 1981 (NYTL, 1981).
U = Compound analyzed for but not detected. Posted concentration is the method detection limit.

TABLE 4.7

SOIL SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS BY EP TOX METHOD FOR FORMER BRONX AUTO WRECKING AND SALVAGE, INC. (ITL, 1989) HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

PARAMETER \1	UNITS	REGULATORY LIMIT	SAMPLE #1	SAMPLE #2	SAMPLE #3
Arsenic	ppb	5000	–	–	–
Barium	ppb	100,000	5000	4000	6000
Cadmium	ppb	1000	–	–	–
Chromium	ppb	5000	1	2	5
Lead	ppb	5000	6.3	0.6	12.4
Mercury	ppb	200	–	–	–
Selenium	ppb	1000	–	–	–
Silver	ppb	5000	–	–	–
Endrin	ppb	20	1	–	–
Lindane	ppb	400	–	–	–
Methoxychlor	ppb	10,000	2	–	1
Toxaphene	ppb	500	8	1	50
2,4,–D	ppb	10,000	40	50	60
2,4–TP	ppb	1000	50	80	80
Total hydrocarbon	ppb	–	4500	4500	5700

\1 = Analysis for BAWS by Independent Testing Laboratories, Inc., College Point, New York, July, 1989 (ITL, 1989).
– = Not detected above method detection limit.

TABLE 4.8

SOIL SAMPLE ANALYTICAL RESULTS BY TCLP METHOD FOR FORMER BRONX AUTO WRECKING AND SALVAGE, INC. (PA, 1990) HEXAGON LABORATORY SITE BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

PARAMETER \1	UNITS	CONCENTRATION
Acetone	ppb	1.0 U
Benzene	ppb	1.0 U
n-Butylalcohol	ppb	1.0 U
Carbon disulfide	ppb	1.0 U
Carbon tetrachloride	ppb	1.0 U
Chlorobenzene	ppb	1.0 U
Chloroform	ppb	1.0 U
1,2-Dichloroethane	ppb	1.0 U
1,1-Dichloroethylene	ppb	1.0 U
Ethyl acetate	ppb	1.0 U
Ethyl benzene	ppb	1.0 U
Ethyl ether	ppb	1.0 U
Isobutanol	ppb	1.0 U
Methanol	ppb	1.0 U
Methylene chloride	ppb	1.0 U
Methyl ethyl ketone	ppb	1.0 U
Methyl isobutyl ketone	ppb	1.0 U
Tetrachloroethylene	ppb	1.0 U
Toluene	ppb	1.0 U
1,1,1-Trichloroethylene	ppb	1.0 U
Trichlorofluoromethane	ppb	1.0 U
1,1,2-Trichloro-1,2,2-trifluoroethane	ppb	1.0 U
Vinyl chloride	ppb	1.0 U
Xylene	ppb	1.0 U
Total cresol	ppb	1.0 U
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	ppb	1.0 U
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	ppb	1.0 U
Hexachlorobenzene	ppb	.0 U
Hexachloro-1,3-butadiene	ppb	.0 U
Hexachloroethane	ppb	1.0 U
Nitrobenzene	ppb	1.0 U
Pentachlorophenol	ppb	1.0 U
Pyridine	ppb	1.0 U
2,4,5-Trichlorophenol	ppb	1.0 U
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1016	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1221	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1232	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1242	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1248	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1254	ppb	1.0 U
Aroclor 1260	ppb	1.0 U
Arsenic	ppb	1.0 U
Barium	ppb	380
Cadmium	ppb	30 U
Chromium	ppb	20 U
Lead	ppb	50 U
Mercury	ppb	0.7
Selenium	ppb	1 U
Silver	ppb	20 U
Flashpoint	ppb	100

U = Compound analyzed for but not detected.
\1 = Analysis for Tufo's Dairy by Pednault Associates, Inc., Bohemia, New York, October 1990 (PA, 1990).

PASOIL / PRINTED 15-May-92.

TABLE 4.9

HYDROCARBON LAYER IN WELL WATER SAMPLE (NYTEST, 1987)
HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE
BRONX COUNTY, NEW YORK

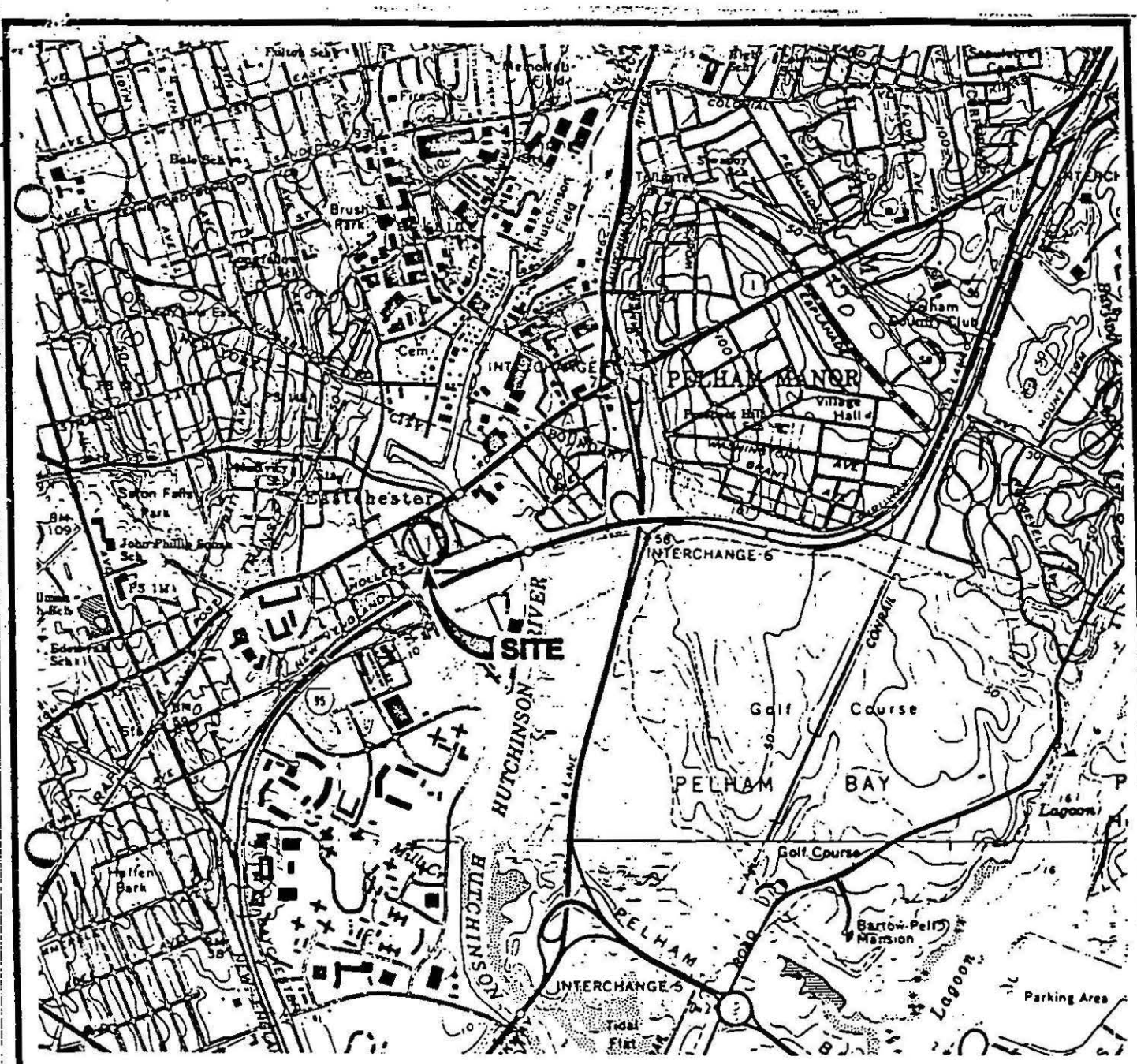
PARAMETER \1	Units	Concentration
Heating value	BTU/gallon	139215
Chlorides	%	< 0.1
pH at 20 deg. C	–	5.7
Corrosivity	inch/year	< 0.1
Reactivity to cyanide	ppm	< 1
Reactivity to sulfide	ppm	< 1
Ignitability	deg F	> 212
Isopropyl	ppm	5000 U
Chloroethane	ppm	5000 U
Acetone	ppm	5000 U
Diethyl ketone	ppm	5000 U
Ethylene dichloride	ppm	350
Toluene	ppm	6300
Xylene (total)	ppm	14000
Aroclor 1016	ppm	8 U
Aroclor 1221	ppm	8 U
Aroclor 1232	ppm	8 U
Aroclor 1242	ppm	47.335
Aroclor 1248	ppm	8 U
Aroclor 1254	ppm	12 U
Aroclor 1260	ppm	12 U

\1 = Analysis for Leggette, Brashears, and Graham, Inc. by NYTEST Environmental, Inc., New York, September 1987 (NYTEST, 1987).

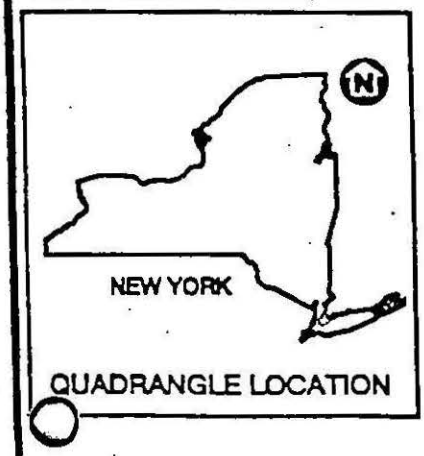
U = Compound analyzed but not detected.

Note : Data missing for two groundwater samples collected during sampling effort.

HYDROTAB / PRINTED 15-May-92



SOURCE: U.S.G.S. 7.5 SERIES TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS; MOUNT VERNON AND FLUSHING, N.Y. QUADRANGLES.1966,PHOTOREVISED 1979.



LATITUDE: 40°53'13"
LONGITUDE: 73°49'34"

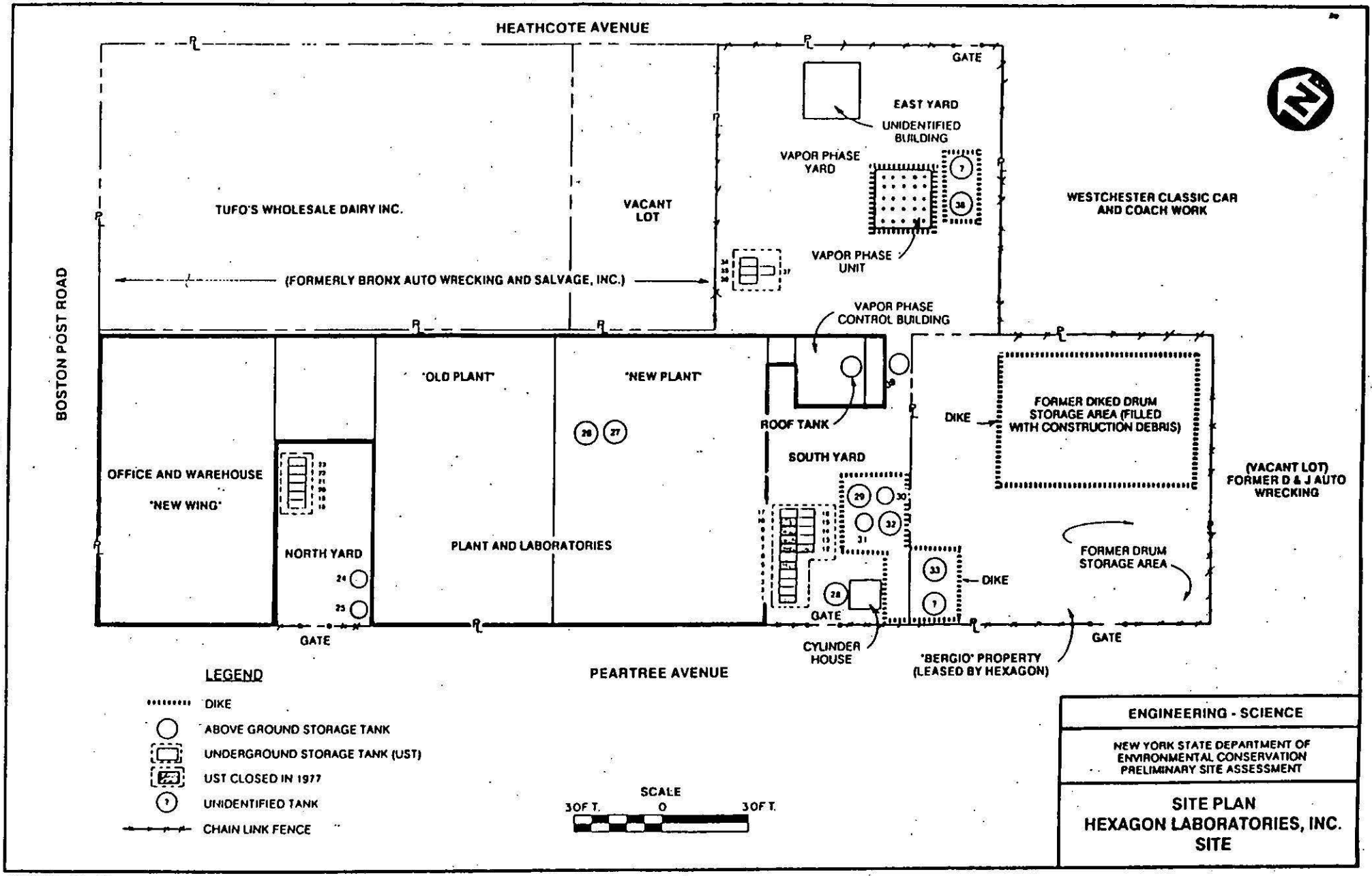
SCALE
0 2000 4000 FT.

ENGINEERING-SCIENCE

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION
PRELIMINARY SITE ASSESSMENT

SITE LOCATION
HEXAGON LABORATORIES, INC. SITE

FIGURE 4.2



SY 230.03.01